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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Soviets have convinced themselves that simply in Manchuria and North China that any attack on those areas would bring Soviet intervention. The Soviets used to maintain a cover of civilians dressed in diplomatic passports and say they were advisers, but by late 1950 military uniforms had become a common sight in Harbin and Tientsin, and the troops of the tank corps stationed in Harbin are no longer held in isolation but allowed in town in uniform.

2. A Soviet named Sherbakov is reportedly the head of Soviet counter-intelligence in the area from Chailantun to Harbin. It is rumored that every time he appears in Harbin arrests and disappearances follow.

3. The tank corps in Harbin reportedly crossed into Manchuria by road and was not loaded onto railroad cars until it reached Manchouli. In Harbin it occupies an area beyond Sazhnyy Gorodok.

4. It is also rumored that the big underground hangars built by the Japanese beyond Stary Harbin is being reconstructed and that the whole area is off limits and heavily guarded by Chinese troops.

5. There has been a gradual replacement of all the Soviet personnel in Soviet enterprises and official agencies. In the consulate only Zudin is left of the old-timers, and the rumors of his transfer to Tientsin are not true; he only made a ten-day visit there.

6. There is little postal communication between Harbin and the USSR.

7. The attitude of the Chinese in Manchuria has changed greatly towards the local Soviets. They no longer consider them true Soviet citizens, and they respect only the Soviets that carry the Soviet passport with the red cover, the diplomatic passport. The consulate no longer supports the local Soviets in their disputes with the Chinese authorities.

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